

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Youth Build USA, Inc.

Application ID: 13ND145724

Program Name: Youth Build National Direct

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant provides pervasive evidence that the identified need exists in the target communities through reports from the Urban Institute (2012), State of the Nation's Housing (2012), National Center for Children in Poverty, Congressional Research Service, Queens College, and data from the localities of South Los Angeles, California, Venice, California, Red Lake, Minnesota, Washington, D.C., and Covington, Kentucky. This described the target community and the economic disadvantages.
- (+) The problems of affordable housing, education, and life skills acquisition related to economic opportunity are described, within the large service area of 72 urban and 23 rural communities.
- (+) Members' activities are clearly described in terms of program plan, from the two-four-week intensive training, skills training, academic instruction, and counseling services.
- (+) The applicant clearly describes what it will accomplish that would not have been accomplished with existing staff/volunteers.
- (+) The applicant clearly indicates the types of slots and how they align with the program design.
- (+) The applicant uses evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions, including the program's data, career pathways data, Urban Institute data, a Tufts University study, and ROI (return-on-investment) data.
- (-) The applicant's statement of "a number of studies" is not an adequate support for evidence.
- (+) The applicant clearly states the impact of the AmeriCorps investment and the overall change resulting from the project.
- (+) The applicant has a clear plan for measures and reports on an annual basis and explains how performance targets were determined.

(-) The extent/severity of need was broadly generalized – information specific to local communities was limited to five localities out of the proposed 95 localities/communities and did not cite the statistics proffered.

(-) Specific examples of proposed Member activity are generalized to “construction” service and did not clearly describe the computer rehabilitation component.